

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2004 LB 203A, 391, 485, 692, 943, 1065, 1207

SENATOR SCHIMEK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, would you like to read anything into the record?

CLERK: I would. Thank you. Madam President, Enrollment and Review reports LB 391 to Select File. Amendments to be printed: Senator Synowiecki, LB 485; Senator Thompson, LB 943; Senator Chambers, LB 943; Senator Bromm, LB 692; Senator Brashear, LB 1207. And I have a new A bill, LB 203A, by Senator Bourne. (Read LB 203A by title for the first time.) (Legislative Journal pages 1471-1474.)

Madam President, the next amendment I have, Senator Wehrbein, AM3554. (Legislative Journal page 1474.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Wehrbein, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Madam President. I wasn't ready for that amendment to be drafted...drawn...withdrawn. Well this one is a cent. Increases the checkoff from its present .5 cent to a full cent. And I did hand out a handout that...at this point \$8 million a year, and goes to \$10 million. The corn crop in Nebraska is approximately 1 billion or 1.1 billion, maybe up to 1.2 billion. We don't know what the weather is going to be. But let's...it's based on 1.1...or 1 billion bushel. And of course, a lot of it's fed and it's not purchased, it's not resold, so it doesn't...if you feed it, it's not subject to a checkoff. But on the other hand, with our large operations today, both in cattle and hogs, much of that corn is purchased as smaller operators have dropped off. So it ends up being subject to the corn checkoff. The reason I dropped this in is because my sense was that there was not going to be support. And I admit, I don't know that, and I guess each of you will have to examine here whether the real bill in its original form or with this amendment is the way that it will have to be to pass. But my sense is that we have to have LB 1065, by all measurable...by all commonsense standards, because we need to have funding for the plants that are there, and also the plants that we know are coming, the four plants. This does not face the possibility of 2, 3, 4, 5 additional plants. But we don't know if those are going to be there. And